

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7432

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PARIS FOR PAT MURPHY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, NL

SUBJECT: NASA REACTIVATION OF DUTCH SATELLITE STIRS PARLIAMENTARIANS' INTEREST IN SCIENCE POLICY

1. REPORTS IN DUTCH PAPERS OF NASA REACTIVATION OF NETHER-LANDS ASTRONOMICAL SATELLITE (ANS) HAVE PROMPTED PARLIAMENTARY CRITICISM OF STATE SECRETARY (SCIENCE & EDUCATION) KLEIN'S DECISION LAST DECEMBER 1 TO CEASE FUNDING OPERATION OF SATELLITE. CRITICS IMPLY THAT IF NASA CONSIDERS CONTINUED COLLECTION OF DATA WORTHWHILE, KLEIN ACTED ON BAD ADVICE IN STOPPING ANS OPERATIONS.

2. PARLIAMENTARY LEADER OF D'66 TERLOUW A SCIENTIST TURNED POLITICIAN, HAS DEMANDED THAT KLEIN NAME THE ADVISERS WHO RECOMMENDED DISCONTINUING ANS OPERATION AND THAT HE EXPLAIN WHY NASA IS INTERESTED IN REACTIVATING IT. MP DEES (VVD) HAS PROPOSED THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE POLICY DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED AND PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN DECISIONS ON FUTURE SPACE PROJECTS.

3. COMMENT: DEES' LATTER COMMENT APPARENTLY REFERS TO THE SOON-TO-COME GOVERNMENT DECISION ON THE FATE OF IRAS, A PLANNED SATELLITE FOR INFRARED ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS.

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Message Attributes

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